

WA-III-030

Kennedy Farm (John Brown's Headquarters)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 03-12-2004

WA-III-30

1859

Kennedy Farm (John Brown's Headquarters)
Chestnut Grove Road
Sharpsburg
Private

The Kennedy Farm, or John Brown's Headquarters, is a simple rectangular 2 1/2 story country farmhouse--a composite of brick, log, and stone construction--with a double-tiered porch under an overhanging roof. On the principal facade, the first story is of uncoursed rubble stone and the second of common bond brick. Most windows are 6/6 sash with plain trim. The house is 4 bays wide on the southeast facade and 2 bays deep, although the gable ends have only a single window on each floor including the attic. The northeast gable end has no second-floor window, and that on the third floor holds only four lights in the lower sash, and the top three lights of the upper sash are covered over. The principal entrance is in the second bay from the southwest end of the southeast facade. The gable roof, through which there is a small interior chimney about 1/3 the way from the southwest gable end, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway runs flush against the southeast side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch. This porch now has square columns and straight rails, although a 19th century photograph shows a balustrade. A former rear porch appears to have been removed. A 19th century photograph shows the rear facade of the building in a combination of construction materials, with 2/3 of this facade being constructed of logs. The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.

The Kennedy Farmhouse was the headquarters where John Brown and his band planned and began their daring and inflammatory raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. The Kennedy Farmhouse is the structure most closely associated with the raid, beside the enginehouse at Harpers Ferry where Brown staged his final defense. The raid, called by Samuel Eliot Morrison one of the two "startling portents of the 'irrepressible conflict,'" intensified Southern fears of slave rebellion and Southern suspicion of northern intentions. The effect was a major polarization of the sections intensifying the inevitability of conflict.

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WA-III-030

NHL 2205472404

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Kennedy Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:	John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Chestnut Grove Road			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Samples Manor			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Washington	

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mr. John Phillips, et al			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
4946 Butterworth Place			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Washington		D.C.	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Washington County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Hagerstown		Maryland	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY:	1958	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
		<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Division of Prints and Photographs			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Library of Congress (Annex)			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Washington		D.C.	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

STATEMENT OF HISTORIC PLACES
- NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>The Kennedy Farm-John Brown Headquarters is a simple rectangular 2-1/2 story country farmhouse--a composite of brick, log and stone construction--with a double-tiered porch under an overhanging roof. It is 4-bays in length with a 2-bay depth, although the stuccoed sides have only a one bay-center alignment of windows. Window trim is plain. Windows are of double-hung sash 6 over 6 lights. The gabled roof, through which there is an interior chimney, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway, runs flush against the south-east side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch.</p> <p>The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kennedy Farmhouse was the headquarters of John Brown and his band in which he planned and from which he executed his daring and inflammatory raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. Other than the enginehouse at Harpers Ferry where Brown staged his final defense and which has been moved, the Kennedy Farmhouse is the structure most closely associated with the raid. Called by Samuel Eliot Morison one of the two "startling portents of the 'irrepressible conflict,'" the raid intensified southern fears of slave rebellion and southern suspicion of northern intentions. The effect was a major polarization of the sections intensifying the inevitability of conflict.

(continued)

INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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TER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORM

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

WA-111-30

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (1) John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm

History

John Brown was a fanatic but not an insane abolitionist. As early as 1847 he nurtured a plan for the forcible liberation of the slaves. With his family's assistance he organized resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act and gave open encouragement and comfort to slave escapes. In 1855 he moved his militant operations to Kansas which had become the conspicuous form in which free-soil and slave adherents would do bloody combat in the name of "popular sovereignty." He rose to prominence at Pottawatomie in 1856 for the revenge slaying of 5 pro-slavery men and his defense at Ossawatimie against a band of pro-slavery Missouri raiders.

Brown's ultimate plan was to establish a sort of fugitive slave republic in the mountains of Virginia or Maryland. By force of arms, he hoped, this slave refuge might maintain itself against attack. He appears to have believed that what he needed was a bold stroke that would startle the nation to action, draw adherents to his cause, and leave no room for compromise. As it was to turn out, it gained him no recruits but it did further deflate the possibility of peaceful settlement. That bold stroke was to be a strike against the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and the capture of the town.

In the summer of 1858, Brown planted his confederate, John E. Cook, in town to familiarize himself with the city and the layout of the armory. A year later, Brown arrived from Kansas with his small band set out on Independence Day to locate a headquarters for his campaign. He rented the two-story farmhouse 7 miles away in Maryland from the heirs of Dr. Booth Kennedy. Giving his name as "Isaac Smith," he posed as a cattle buyer from New York while he spent the next 3 months pondering battle maps and vital statistics.

His ranks swelled a bit with the arrival of family and a handful of eccentric idealists. He began to store military hardware at the farm--15 boxes of Sharps rifles and Maynard revolvers and hundreds of pikes to arm liberated slaves. Brown gathered his handful of recruits upstairs and revealed his plan to them.

On October 16, his small band seized the armory and took several hostages. The following day Colonel Robert E. Lee arrived with a company of U.S. Marines and cornered Brown and his men in a fire-engine house. Surrendering, he was brought to trial at Charles Town for insurrection against the State of Virginia, found guilty and hanged on December 2, 1859.

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FOR BIBLIOGRAPHICA

REFERENCES

Morison and Commager, The Growth of the American Republic, Oxford University Press, 2 vols., New York, 1952.
Oates, Stephen B., To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown, Harper and Row, New York.
Sanborn, F. B., The Life and Letters of John Brown, Negro Universities Press, New York.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	22'	47"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	42'	56"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.77 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian		
ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE 6/16/73	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

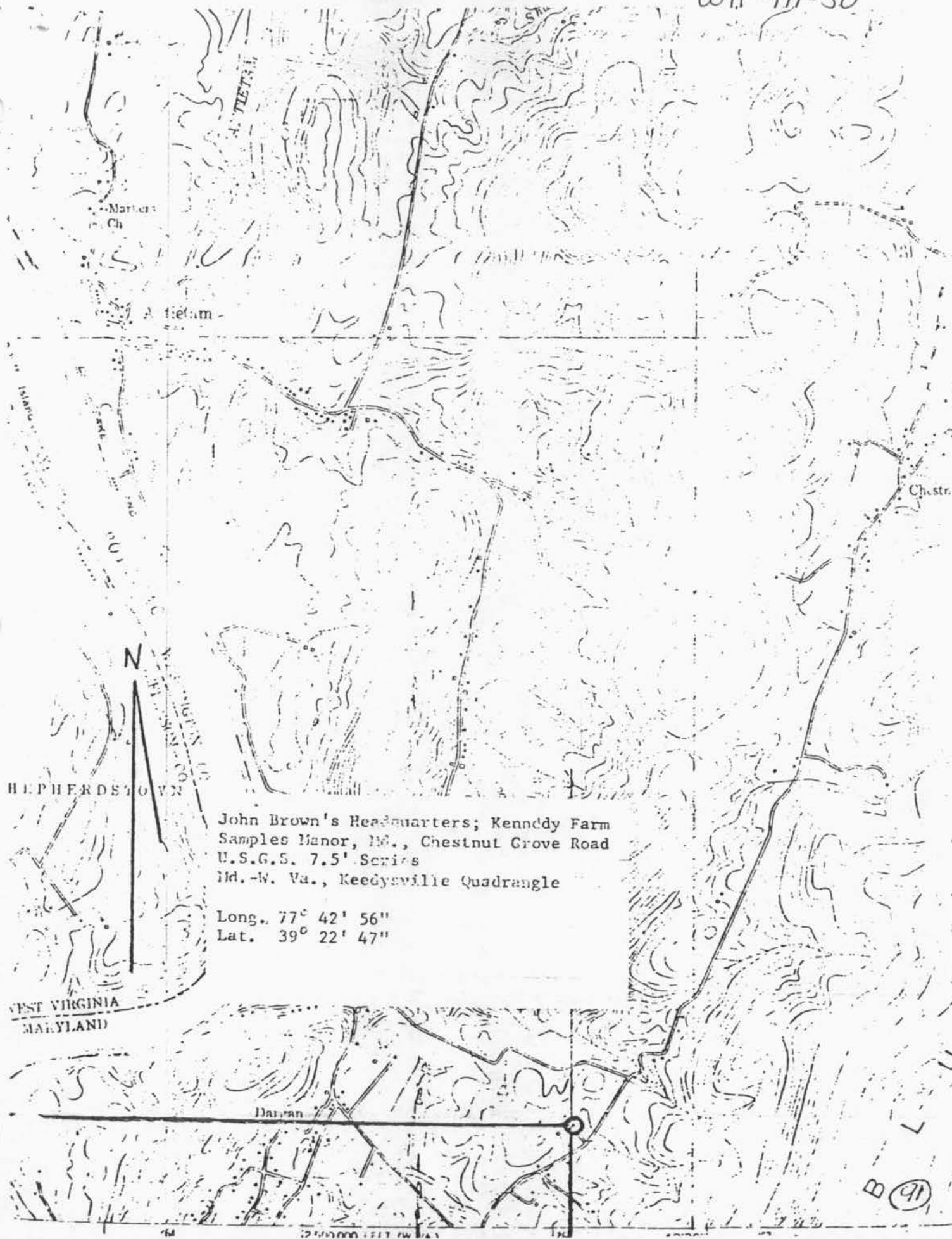
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SHEPHERDSTOWN

John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm
 Samples Manor, Md., Chestnut Grove Road
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
 Md.-W. Va., Keedysville Quadrangle

Long. 77° 42' 56"
 Lat. 39° 22' 47"

WEST VIRGINIA
 MARYLAND

Darman

91



WA-III -030

The Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from SSE

HABS No. MD-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer
Date Dec. , 19⁵⁸



John Brown farm

WA-III-030



WA-III-030

Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from east of northeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 19 58



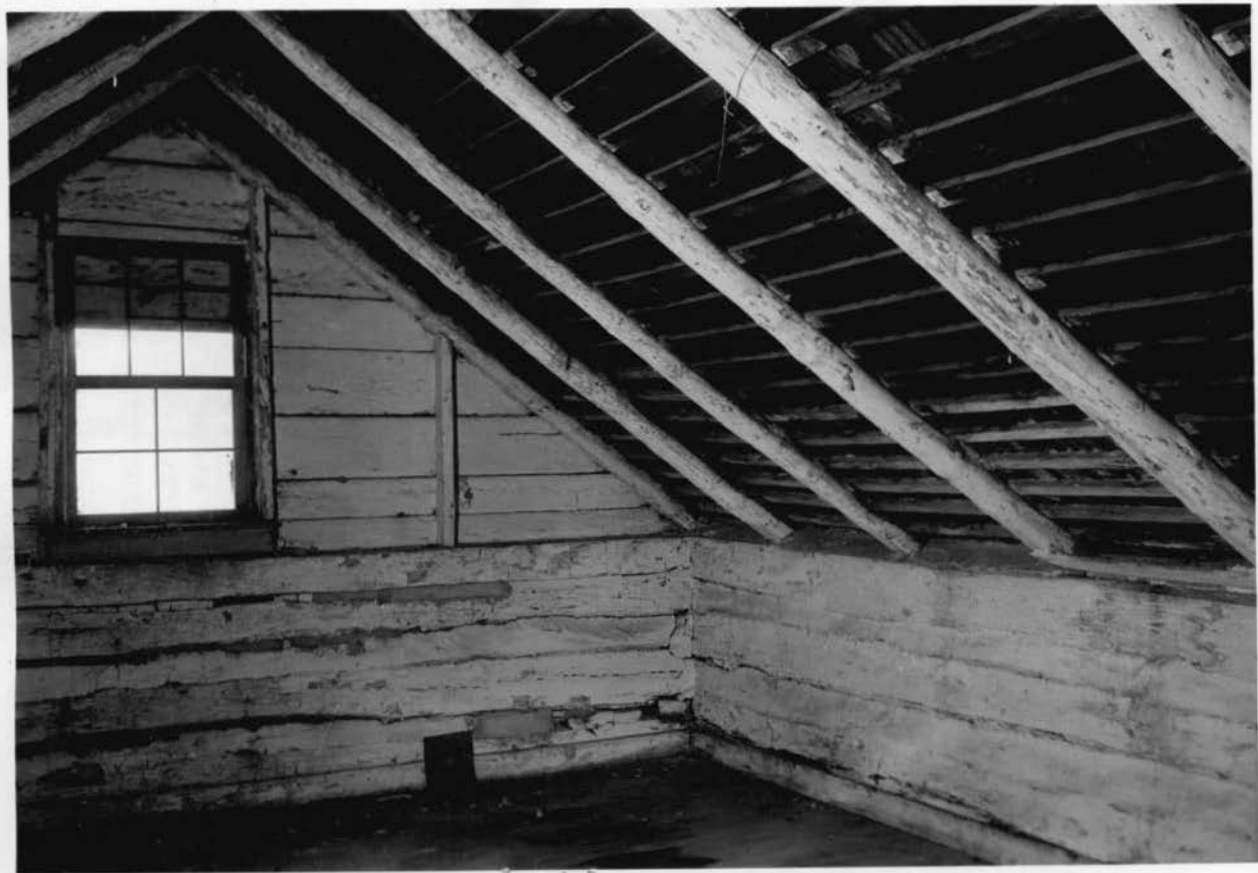
The Kennedy Farm- "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

Northeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 19 58



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Samples Manor Vic., Washington County
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Northeast end of attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher _____, Photographer

Date Dec. _____, 19 58



WA-III-030

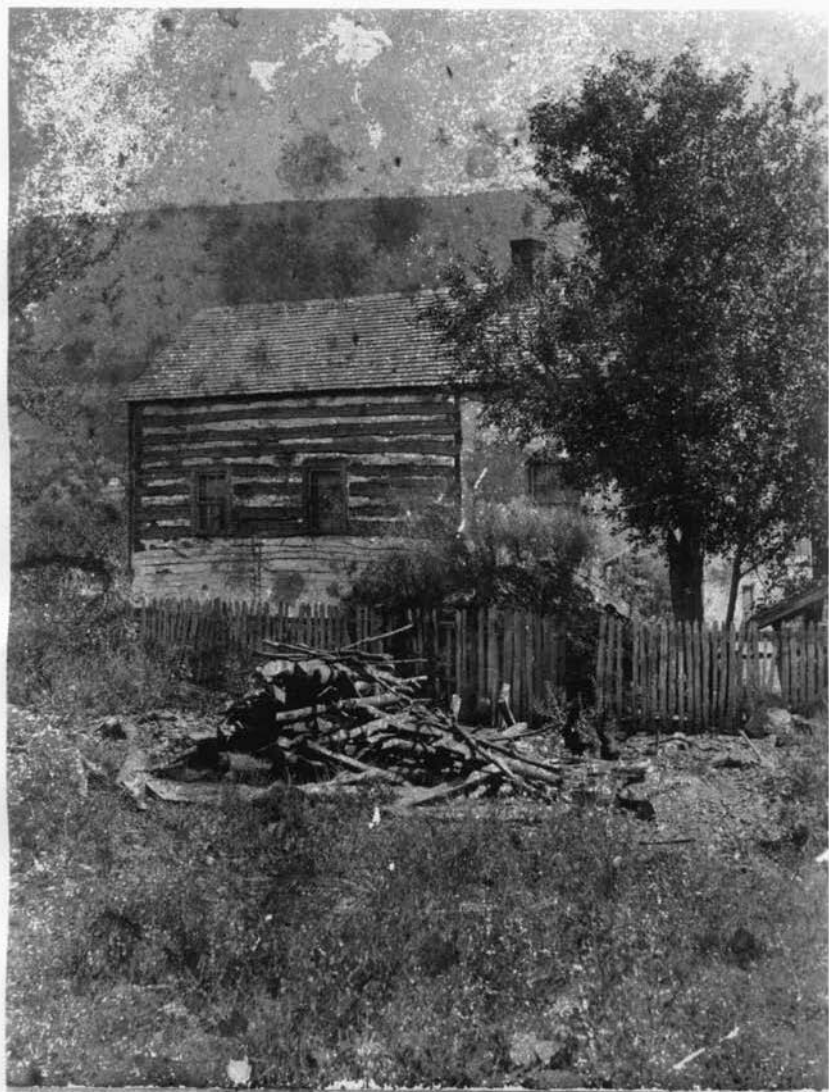
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., Md.

Southwest end of attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 19 58



Kennedy farmhouse from the
Mrs. Annie Brown Adams on her land
of June 2, 1896. East "The left end of the
near view picture of the house looks out"

Photocopy of original photo in
Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm- "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor, Washington Co., MD

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

_____, Photographer

Date _____, 19____



Kennedy Farmhouse, about 5 miles from Harper's Ferry
where John Brown & his party lived from the summer of
1857 till Oct. 17, 1859. (Front view)

Photocopy of original photo in
Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

_____, Photographer
Date _____, 19____



WA-III-030

The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

Second Floor room--view of stairs to attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 19 58



Kennedy Farm
(John Brown Farm)
Washington Co.





39%

50/31

VIEW FROM NE
JOHN BROWN'S FARM
WASHINGTON CO, MD

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
2525 RIVA ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

ANTHONY O. JAMES
7/73



John Brown Saun

WA-~~1000~~

III-030

3 cal x $M\frac{1}{2}$ "

100%

Page

city

John Bro

C